

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF

ST FRANCIS

96 PARK ROAD, CNR TITIRANGI BEACH RD OCTOBER 2017

Our patron saint suits us!

A warm welcome today to all visitors with their feathered and furry friends!

St Francis of Assisi was a remarkable man, and we're lucky to have him as our patron saint. There are many stories about his special love of nature and relationships with animals.



He's even said to have stopped off in his travels to preach to birds in the forest, and not one of them flew away. Nice if we could preach with the same fervour!

Initially Francis lived the high-spirited life typical of a wealthy young man, even fighting as a soldier for Assisi.

In 1201, he joined a military expedition against Perugia and was taken as a prisoner at Collestrada, spending a year as a captive.

It is possible that his spiritual conversion was a gradual process rooted in this experience. Upon his return to Assisi in 1203, Francis returned to his carefree life. But then in 1204, a serious illness led him to a spiritual crisis. He was inspired to a life of

poverty and he went on to found a brotherhood of similarly minded men.

Hearing Francis preaching in the church of San Rufino in Assisi in 1211, the young noblewoman Clare of Assisi became deeply touched by his message, realized her calling, and established the Poor Clares.

Here in St Francis, Titirangi, we're very conscious of the environment, and if you look out the back in the car park you'll see signs of our joint venture with the Baptist church in producing native seedlings in our nursery.



Francis is said to have tamed a ferocious wolf. We're not seeking any such miracles today!

Please stay for tea/coffee after the service



Diary notes

October

8 **Patronal Festival**

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Healing service today, 11.30am

A special welcome to our visitors today

Deborah sums up the Auckland Synod—Bishops’ charge available

Bishop Ross and Bishop Jim delivered their annual charge at the opening Synod Eucharist in which they outlined their thoughts on directions for the life and purpose of the Auckland diocese.

They acknowledged that we are living in an increasingly secular nation, that the Anglican church is in overall decline, and that much of its resources are in capital assets with too few resources to respond to needs as they would like the diocese to be able to do.

to harness collaboration, to rediscover ourselves as one people of God sharing life and ministry as a diocese and where what we do in our individual places, is part of whole. This was the key message of the Bishops’ charge to the diocese.



In their own words the Bishops stated they “*have a vision of building healthy or flourishing local churches, which includes actively participating in the mission of God, that directs our work and leads us (ie the bishops) to identify the strategies which can make it happen, along with the stumbling blocks which can prevent it and which we must overcome together*”.

So, as your Synod reps, we encourage us all to read the full Bishops’ charge (a copy is on the church notice board) and consider it within the context of our mission and ministry development (and Parish Review) at St Francis. Happy reading!

“...have
a
vision...”



The question always on their minds is: *how can they (the bishops) help Anglicans flourish, be more faithful and loving wherever they are located in the Diocese?*

So, they then outlined that their vision, underpinned by the continued adherence to the 5 Marks of Mission, is one of building healthy, flourishing local churches, with meaningful worship and harnessing collaboration.



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Collaboration you might query. Yes, the Bishops believe the future of our diocese lies in our capacity

It’s not too late if you’re interested in our “book club” approach to studying “Being Christian” by Rowan Williams.

The book costs \$12.95 from Book Depository, UK.

See Neil if you’d like to take part.

Something old, something new, something borrowed.....?!

A St Francis liturgy? Yes indeed. As we mentioned last month we have been putting together a fresh liturgy to add to our rotation of 404, 456, 476,

David and Lindsay aimed to have this ready for our St Francis Patronal Festival next Sunday, and their hopes are nearly realised!

The first part loosely follows the order in the prayer book. We think you'll find the additions and changes interesting.

There are the usual places for hymns, readings, prayers and a sermon.

The Great Thanksgiving has the necessary elements but with some thoughtful rewording.

We will introduce this for a trial period and you are invited to make comments and suggestions.

The draft will be sent to our enabler Edward. Later, if all goes well, we will submit it to the bishops for their approval as a permanent addition.

We look forward to your participation next Sunday. Don't be afraid to make your views heard!

LSM Conference has lovely setting

Please consider attending this important bi-annual conference. It's at Vaughan Park retreat centre, Long Bay.

It runs from Friday evening, 17th November to Sunday morning 19th November.

The major guest speaker on Saturday 18th is Mark Harris. Born in NZ he moved to UK as a youngster. Later he helped lead churches in London with particular emphasis on ministry with the homeless.

He was musical director of a large student church whilst working as a teacher of English.

He is now Tutor in Theology at St John's College. *"He loves translating theological concepts into language that everyone can engage with and deeply believes that prayer and theology go hand in hand and should overflow into a life of love and service"*

In the afternoon Archdeacon Sarah Moss speaks about Reviews and

Planning and in the evening it's the Rev Josh Jones on "The Power of Music" On Sunday hear Chris Farrelly from Auckland City Mission. Our Bishop Jim White will also speak.

There is a programme on the notice board in church: non residential attendance is \$150 and there may be opportunities for subsidies and sharing.

We must register by October 29th October.

Please let Susan Crozier know if you would like to attend.

***"...power
of
music..."***

Contact the editor
at: email
landcnash@pl.net
fax 817-1417
Ph 817-1419



Worship Times:
Sundays 9.30am
3pm last Sunday

Administrator;
Susan Crozier 836-7821
Pastoral Care:
Jenny Keating 833-1931
Office: 817-7300
st.francis@actrix.co.nz
www.titirangiangu.org.nz

Readings for October:

8th Patronal Festival – special service
15th Exodus 32:1-14; Phil 4:1-9; Matt 22:1-14;
22nd Exodus 33:12-23; 1 Thess 1:1-10; Matt 22:15-22;
29th Deut 34:1-12; 1 Thess 2:1-8; Matt 22:34-46

Your prayerful support please for: John Hyatt (still in hospital, Muriwai ward), Dorothy Ashbolt, Susan Wightman, Joyce McNeil, Joyce Daniels.

Remember: 3pm Holy Communion last Sunday every month.

11.15am Healing service 1st Sunday even months: today.



News and events from around the town

Thank you, Bob and Val!

We are delighted with a new home communion set, donated by Val Aitken in memory of Bob. It has already been in use with home communions for Joyce McNeil and Susan Wightman.



Latest news of Susan:

Susan is at home being cared for by Alan and her daughter. She is very pleased with various cards sent to her, and with the love and support she feels with all the prayers being said for her.

She is happy to receive cards and a phone call now and then, and although she is so grateful for all your thoughts, she and Alan do not need food, plants or flowers. Your prayerful support is so appreciated.



Voice workshops:

Two gatherings were held after church last month, very worthwhile,

said the participants. But there were several absentees! *All* liturgists, preachers, readers and intercessors are expected to attend. We'll be chasing you up!

Spring/Creation stories:

Yesterday C and F ("Mostly Craft") had a fun-filled afternoon at St Francis. We'll have more news next issue.



Patronal Festival next Sunday:

Do remember to invite any past parishioners you know. We had a call from Father Stephen: he hopes to be with us.

Visual aids:

Preachers, if you'd like to show video clips, images or photos, as part of your sermon, we have the technology! See David.

